

21. RECORD OF THE BENTHIC LEUCOSIID CRAB, *RANDALLIA EBURNEA* ALCOCK IN THE NORTHERN ARABIAN SEA

(With a photograph)

The occurrence of the Benthic Gymnopleuran crab, *Notopus dorsipes* Fabricius in the northern Arabian Sea based on the study of the material collected during the Oceanographic Expedition on INS DARSHAK from December, 1973 to May, 1974 was reported earlier by Daniel & Chakrapani (1977). In this note, the record of a few specimens of a Leucosiid Brachyuran, *Randallia eburnea* Alcock collected from depths of 80-85 metres at latitude 19° 30'N and longitude 70° 04' E in January 1974, is reported. This species has never been

rediscovered in the Indian seas, since its original record by Alcock in 1896 from off Laccadive islands at a depth of 30-metres. Hence this is the second record in the Indian seas. This species has also been reported from off Western Australia at 86-metres (Tyndale-Biscoe & George 1962), in East Indies—Siboga Expedition—(Ihle 1918) and Japan (Sakai 1937). This species is distinguished by the posterior margin of the carapace being armed with three petalloid processes (Photograph 1, dorsal view).

S. No.	Material from Laccadive sea—after Alcock, 1896 & 1897	Material from East Indies after Ihle 1918	Material from Western Australia after Tyndale-Biscoe and George 1962	Present material from Northera Arabian Sea
1.	Dactyls with few hairs on tip only.	Same as Alcock	Distal one third of first to third dactyls with long hairs.	Distal one third of first dactylus and distal half of second and third dactyls with hairs. The last dactylus devoid of any hairs
2.	3rd-5th abdominal segments fused, though all clearly recognisable.	3rd-6th abdominal segments fused, all clearly recognisable.	2nd - 6th abdominal segments fused only, faintly recognisable by slight bulging at sides.	2nd - 6th abdominal segments fused; all segments clearly discernible demarcation between IIrd - IIIrd, Vth - VIth deeper.
3.	No tooth on penultimate segment of abdomen.	Same as Alcock	Distinct flattened tooth on penultimate segment of abdomen.	Abdomen with blunt tooth on second segment No tooth on penultimate segment.

The specimens examined agree in most respects with the general description and figures given by earlier authors, i.e. Alcock 1896, p. 197 (description); Illustration of RIMSS Investigator 1897, pl. 30, fig. 4; Ihle 1918, p. 246, Sakai 1937, p. 132 and 1940, p. 37 and Tyndale-Biscoe & George 1962 (diagnostic features) except in minor morphological variations which are presented in the table.

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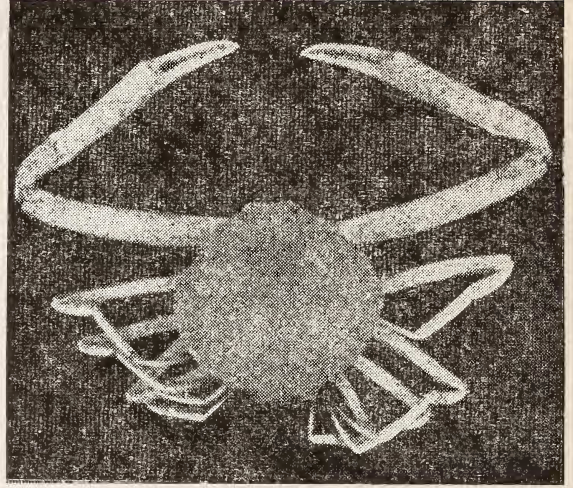


Photo. 1. *Randallia eburnea* Alcock 1896.  
Dorsal view.

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